



DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA

Commission Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013
Pleasant Hill Public Library
5151 Maple Drive
Pleasant Hill, Iowa
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The DSCI Commission meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Nathaniel Garrels at 10:01 a.m.

Members present: Nathaniel Garrels, Mark Hersch, Tina Kastendieck, and Bob Vizzini

Members absent: Theresa Legg, Jennifer Keaton and Jennifer Upah

Staff members present: Heidi Smith, Administrator, CAS Division, Jill Fulitano-Avery, Executive Officer, Office of Deaf Services and Linda Scott

Staff members absent: Lysie Hanssen, Stephanie Lyons and San Wong, Director, DHR and *Ex-Officio*

Interpreters: Jeff Reese, Holly Shannon and Julia Matson

Commissioners, staff and interpreters were introduced, visitors recognized and ground rules for the meeting established.

Approval of Minutes from August 2, 2013:

MOTION #14-02: There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, motion to approve minutes as presented. **Vizzini/Kastendieck.** All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner/Committee Reports:

Culturally Affirmative Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Aftercare Services: No report.

Accessible Legal Representation:

Hersch provided an update on VRiowa, a company who presented at the August 2, 2013 meeting. On November 9, 2013, VRiowa will hold a board meeting and plans on pushing forward with their business model. They already have implementation in a few rural hospitals and would like to expand. Hersch hopes to be able to bring a complete report about the company and their income streams to the February 2014 meeting.

Kastendieck has been working with Hanssen to contact some law enforcement offices in the Fort Dodge area. She's been successful with some and not as successful with others. Kastendieck has been taking notes and making sure that she knows exactly why she's getting blocked. She's talked with quite a few people in law enforcement and education about the

VR Iowa service and they were very interested in the product but did voice concern about the cost of the service, as many small communities don't have a big budget, if any. Kastendieck provided VR Iowa's card to the offices so that they can look into the services themselves. She will continue to work with a couple of law enforcement officers.

Licensed Sign Language Interpreters Meeting Competency Standards:

Vizzini discussed a couple of issues. 1) the concern in the community that hospitals are using interpreters who don't possess the needed skills to interpret in hospital/medical settings. He feels that there still needs to be a focus on this issue. 2) was approached by a woman who recently moved to Iowa and works for Vocational Rehabilitation. She expressed her surprise that Iowa interpreters can so easily get their temporary license. Vizzini e-mailed her and told her that we were aware of the issue and that Iowa is trying to improve, but it takes time. Community needs to be vocal about it. The commission, the Office of Deaf Services and the Iowa Sign Language and Transliterator Board can't do anything and any changes would need to be done legislatively. He asked her to continue contacting people that could lead to some legislative action.

Kastendieck asked Vizzini to elaborate on his attendance at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference and leadership training held in Omaha in October. Vizzini provided an overview of the conference.

Kastendieck indicated interest in attending, but heard the cost of the conference and that deterred her from going. She asked Smith if there was any way for commissioners and staff to attend such events with some state dollars and Smith advised that there just wasn't a budget for such activities. Kastendieck asked if there might be funding for mileage to travel to conferences, workshops, etc. and she was told, again, there was no money for anyone to attend such events.

Public Comment:

Martha Meyer, a long time member of the Central Iowa Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association said that in the past, their group has helped with monetary support for JCP camp or provided such things as refreshments, etc. The Chapter has a small budget but if the need were known, it might be possible for them to help provide support like \$50-100, depending on the situation. She will be meeting with the organization and will bring this up to those in attendance.

Ms. Meyer also asked a couple of questions of the commission:

- 1) if you do not have any hard of hearing representatives, could their organization advise us in some way?
- 2) is there some way we could communicate to our audience for and on behalf of the commission?

Meyer is publisher of the organization's quarterly newsletter. She always includes a page with all the links for Deaf Services and the commission. Might it be possible for someone within Deaf Services or the commission to provide updates, informational pieces, etc. that

could be included in the newsletter? Also, since the commission does not have a hard of hearing individual on the commission at this time, she has printed the application to interested hard of hearing individuals to apply to become appointed to the commission and will get the word out in her next newsletter about making application, too.

There was no further public comment.

It was decided by the commission not to take a break but to continue on with the meeting.

Old Business:

Avery reported that Hanssen has been busy working with clients both in the office and on the road. Lyons has been working with the five (5) new Iowa Workforce Development sites that have new Disability Coordinators. Lyons will be traveling this week through mid-November to the sites that have new coordinators and working with the staff training them in working with the deaf or hard of hearing.

The Proclamation on Deaf Awareness was done while Avery was out of the office. At the suggestion of the commission, the Office of Deaf Services will try to make this an annual request of the Governor's office in October of each year.

Smith attended a Disability Policy meeting in Avery's absence and on December 5, the Disability Prevention Council will be holding a Disability Policy Summit in Ankeny, IA at the Courtyard by Marriott. Anyone interested can attend.

Updates:

Contractual Interpreting 2014:

Avery reviewed the first & second quarter requests of the contractual interpreting program. To date, \$3,100 has been expended with \$1,900.00 remaining in the fund.

MOTION #14-03: Motion to start reducing any and all requests coming in to \$100.00 from the existing \$150.00 so that there will be enough money in the fund to last to the end of this fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. **Vizzini/**

There being no second to the motion, motion failed.

Discussion ensued about the motion and lack of a second as well as the money in the contractual interpreting fund. Vizzini has concerns about oversight of the fund in terms of time spent interpreting and the maximum payment paid out as well as monitoring of interpreters at the requested event. He feels there could be better oversight and accountability.

Hersch asked for clarification from Scott on how the program is administered and Scott explained the procedure from time of request to the time of payment. Smith reminded the commission that contractual funds is not a line item in the budget, but money that comes from the CAS appropriations. With no motion in place, the conversation will be continued at the February 2014 meeting.

Announcements:

Vizzini announced that the Deaf Nation Expo is taking place in Chicago today and he would have liked to attend, but his attendance at the commission meeting took precedence. He asked that the commission consider the next November 2014 meeting be set for the second week of the month rather than the first so the deaf community could attend the Expo.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Theresa Legg, Chair for Nate Garrels,
Vice Chair

Linda Scott, Secretary